

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A toothpaste composition comprising:

(A) from 30 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 μm or less,

(B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and

(C1) from 0.6 to 3 wt% of a binder,

wherein equation (1) is satisfied:

$$(\text{wt\% of (B) water}) \times 0.3 + 25 \leq (\text{wt\% of (A) erythritol}) \quad (1).$$

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A toothpaste composition comprising:

(A) from 30 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 μm or less,

(B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and

(C2) from 0.6 to 3 wt% of at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer,

wherein equation (1) is satisfied:

$$(\text{wt\% of (B) water}) \times 0.3 + 25 \leq (\text{wt\% of (A) erythritol}) \quad (1).$$

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to Claim 3, wherein (C2) comprises at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, carrageenan and xanthan gum.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to Claim 3, wherein (C2) comprises at least three binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, gum arabic, guar

gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa.s.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa.s.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein (C1) comprises at least one binder selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein the erythritol (A) is obtained by grinding crystalline erythritol.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that provides a superior cooling sensation when used by a subject compared to an otherwise similar toothpaste that does not contain erythritol.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that is stable for 3 months when stored at 4°C, room temperature or 40°C.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that retains its shape when expressed from a tube and placed on the end of a toothbrush.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1 that is applicable on a toothbrush smoothly without threading.